

In the Claims:

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 14, and 23-34 are pending in the application with claims 1 and 10 amended and new claims 23-34 added herein.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A prosthetic valve ~~in the form of~~
comprising:

a flap valve that includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the prosthetic valve only in one direction[.];

the at least one flap ~~being made entirely~~ consisting of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable metal, ~~wherein;~~ and

the flexible openwork structure is being selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire and chainmail.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve has a single flap and further includes a peripheral stent that provides a supporting wall against which said single flap is arranged to close.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes two flaps arranged to close against each other.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 3 wherein said valve further includes a peripheral stent supporting a wall extending at right angles to the plane of the stent and providing two opposed cutouts in which said flaps are mounted.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes three flaps of similar size, arranged to close against each other.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral rib.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve further includes a peripheral stent upon which the three flaps are mounted.

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of promoting tissue growth and endothelialisation, minimising the risk of foreign body infection following the fitting of a prosthetic valve in a living subject, said method ~~including~~ comprising:

~~the provision of~~ providing a prosthetic valve ~~in the form of~~ including:

a flap valve that includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the prosthetic valve only in one direction; ~~and in which~~

the at least one flap ~~is made entirely~~ consisting of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable metal, ~~wherein; and~~

the flexible openwork structure ~~is~~ being selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire and chainmail.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the prosthetic valve is a heart valve.

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claims 15-22 (cancelled).

Claim 23 (new): A prosthetic valve comprising:

a flap valve that includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the prosthetic valve only in one direction;

the at least one flap consisting of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable metal coated with a degradable sealing material, the degradable sealing material being configured as an initial coating to prevent leakage through the flexible openwork structure until such time as a living subject develops a coating over the at least one flap by endothelialisation; and

the flexible openwork structure being selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire and chainmail.

Claim 24 (new): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 23 wherein said valve has a single flap and further includes a peripheral stent that provides a supporting wall against which said single flap is arranged to close.

Claim 25 (new): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 23 wherein said valve includes two flaps arranged to close against each other.

Claim 26 (new): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 25 wherein said valve further includes a peripheral stent supporting a wall extending at right angles to the plane of the stent and providing two opposed cutouts in which said flaps are mounted.

Claim 27 (new): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 23 wherein said valve includes three flaps of similar size, arranged to close against each other.

Claim 28 (new): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 27 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral rib.

Claim 29 (new): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 27 wherein said valve further includes a peripheral stent upon which the three flaps are mounted.

Claim 30 (new): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 23 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claim 31 (new): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 23 wherein the prosthetic valve is a heart valve.

Claim 32 (new): A method of promoting tissue growth and endothelialisation, minimising the risk of foreign body infection following the fitting of a prosthetic valve in a living subject, said method comprising:

providing a prosthetic valve including:

a flap valve that includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the prosthetic valve only in one direction;

the at least one flap consisting of a flexible open work structure of a medically acceptable metal coated with a degradable sealing material, the degradable sealing material being configured as an initial coating to prevent leakage through the flexible open work structure until such time as a living subject develops a coating over the at least one flap by endothelialisation; and

the flexible open work structure being selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire and chainmail.

Claim 33 (new): The method as claimed in claim 32 wherein the prosthetic valve is a heart valve.

Claim 34 (new): The method as claimed in claim 32 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.